

Arctic warmest in two millennia

Temperatures in the Arctic are now the highest they've been for 2,000 years, according to scientists. Researchers in the United States say that it is one of the clearest signs yet that human activity is warming the planet. Richard Black reports:

Scientists have **produced evidence** showing **dramatically** that the current temperature rise there is highly unusual. For most of the last two thousand years, the Arctic slowly cooled, a **consequence** of **variations** in the Earth's **orbit**.

But over the last century, the cooling **abruptly reversed**, and the region is now warmer than at any time in the 2,000 year record. Writing in the journal Science, the researchers say this shows how quickly the Arctic **responds to climatic changes**.

Richard Black, BBC News

Vocabulary and definitions

produced evidence	found and shown proof
dramatically	here, in a very convincing way (literally, dramatically means very noticeably)
a consequence	one of the results
variations	slight changes; here, deviations from the average moving path of astronomical objects, e.g. a planet or satellite
orbit	the curved path through which astronomical objects move around a planet or star
abruptly	suddenly, unexpectedly
reversed	changed to its opposite
responds to	here, is affected by
climatic changes	long-term changes in weather patterns

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